

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 9

Book World

WASHINGTON POST  
21 April 1985

### *Selected Reading*

By Arnold R. Isaacs

The Counterinsurgency Era, by former CIA official Douglas Blaufarb (Free Press, 1977) didn't get much attention when it was published; nor has it been rediscovered, so far, in the current Vietnam revival. It deserves to be. Blaufarb understood what very few American officials ever learned: that the strengths and weaknesses of the two Vietnamese sides were the decisive factors in the war, and that the United States, for all its power, had almost no ability to change those qualities.